

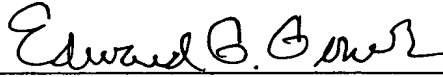
REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 4, 5, and 14 as anticipated by Matsumiya, U.S. Patent No. 6,594,915. The Examiner states that Matsumiya teaches a device inherently capable of being adapted to position a ring in a cylinder so that the ring is perpendicular to the axis of the bore. The Applicant respectfully disagrees because Matsumiya does not teach a lip as claimed. In particular, the Examiner has not identified the structure forming the claimed lip in Matsumiya. Also, it is noted that Matsumiya includes projections 14 and 15 adjacent to each pair of calipers that would prevent it from fitting flush against a cylinder head and ensuring that each caliper is inserted the same distance to properly position a piston ring, as claimed. As will be appreciated, the projections 14 and 15 would cause the calipers to be tilted and prevent full insertion of the calipers. Consequently, Matsumiya does not inherently disclose the claimed invention.

With respect to claim 14, Matsumiya, like the previously applied patent, is a caliper and is prone to canting. Consequently, the extended contact area described in claim 14 is not anticipated by Matsumiya. In light of the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejections. Also, in reviewing Matsumiya, it was noted that the Applicant's invention is distinguished in that the tongue extends between the arcuate segments and is receivable within the bore of the cylinder. It will be appreciated that the tongue, so located, provides further stability, insuring equal application of pressure to the piston ring. To that end, new claim 15 has been provided claiming this feature. Since this amendment provides an allowable claim, it is believed to be a proper amendment after final. Alternatively, entry of this amendment is necessary to fully discuss the invention on appeal, and therefore, places the claims in better condition for appeal.

If any further issues remain after this amendment, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,



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April 10, 2006